



Hours

The WATER Center's outdoor features are open every day from dawn to dusk. The Center's museum is open from 1-430 PM on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays except for holidays. Tours of the treatment building and educational programs are available by arrangement.

Cost

There is no cost to visit the WATER Center. In order to cover expenses, reservations and a minimal fee may be required for some programs, events and workshops. Please call for classroom rental rates. Donations are graciously accepted.

Reservations

For planning purposes, all school groups and groups of more than twenty need to call ahead. Groups may also request a tour of the treatment building or a customized program by scheduling in advance. Audiences with special needs should make reservations three weeks in advance.



WATER Center

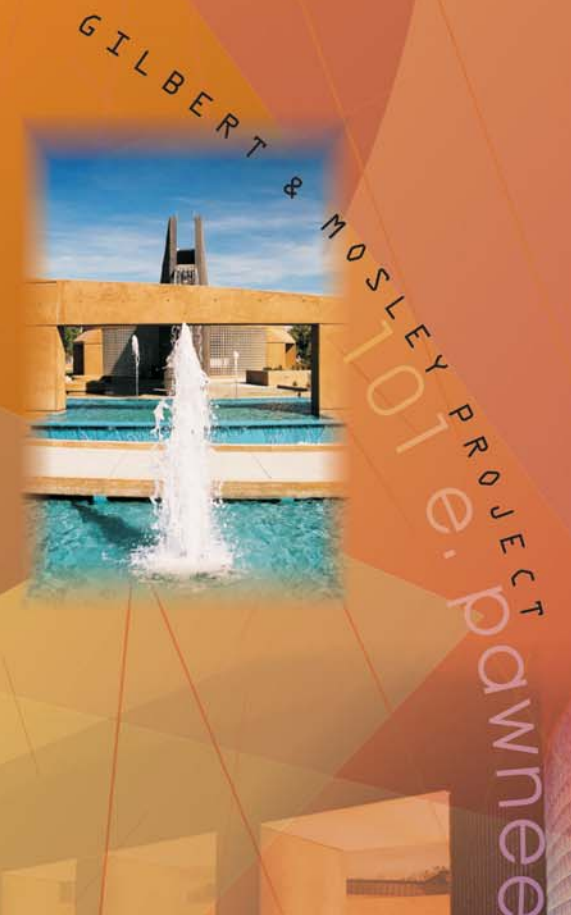
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*The WATER Center is a project of
the Department of
Environmental Services
"Protecting Health-Preserving the
Environment"*

the WATER Center



Gilbert and Mosley Project Overview

Decades of industrial and commercial activities played a major role in the groundwater contamination under downtown Wichita. Discovered in the late 1980's, the impacted site was dubbed the

Gilbert and Mosley Project. Faced with complex public health and economic crises, the City of Wichita took the lead in investigating and cleaning up the 3850-acre site. The resulting

groundwater treatment system is the WATER Center (Wichita Area Treatment, Education and Remediation Center) located at Herman Hill Park.

The treatment system consists of 5.5 miles of conveyance piping, thirteen extraction wells, and a hydraulic-venturi air stripper treatment system. The system treats 1.2 million gallons of water daily, limiting the spread of the polluted groundwater and removing its contamination.

Treatment Center

The treatment center for the Gilbert-Mosley Project houses a 6-stage venturi treatment system to clean the polluted groundwater, and is designed to encourage public interest and education on the pollution and eventual clean-up of groundwater.

Water Education

What's so amazing about water? It's in the air, underground and in our body; it cleans our clothes, regulates temperature, and travels around the globe! It has its own unique chemical properties and is needed by every form of life.

The WATER Center offers many opportunities for visitors to learn about water, conservation, aquatic wildlife, and pollution prevention.

Inside the Center visitors can tour the museum, speak to a Water Quality Professional, or participate in a water education program. Please call the Center for a current schedule of programs.

See Wichita's largest public aquarium! The 11,000-gallon aquarium is filled with Kansas' fish, many of which come from the Arkansas River. Learn about the diversity of our rivers and streams. See what other fish can be found in our state's waters.

Take a walk along the creek to find out about the aquatic food web, buffer strips, and wetlands. View waterfowl, fish and other "critters" that have made the WATER Center their home.

Want a bigger adventure? Check out a "Family Adventure Pack" from the WATER Center. Perfect for small groups, the packs are filled with activities for a deeper journey into the world of water. The packs can be checked out for two hours at a time with a current drivers license.

Herman Hill Park

Bordered on the south by the Arkansas River, this 33-acre park is made up of rolling sand hills and mature trees. Amenities include an eighteen-hole disc golf course, playground equipment and river access. Picnic and restroom facilities are



located on the east side of the park. Skateboarding and swimming are not allowed. The park is open every day from dawn until dusk.

Educational Opportunities

Self-guided educational opportunities exist along the meandering creek and at the outdoor aquarium where signs inform visitors about fishing and water-related issues. Fountains, sculpture, and poetry surround the WATER Center plaza. Other opportunities include:

- Field Trips
- Treatment Building Tours
- Discovery Boxes
- Adult Workshops
- Scout Programs

Museum

Come inside and view some of Kansas' smaller aquatic creatures. The WATER Center's museum boasts a 1,400-gallon aquarium filled with native fish. Touch shells and artifacts found in the Arkansas River and local streams. Or, touch the screen of the "WATER on the Web" exhibit to learn about floods, droughts and the watersheds in Kansas.

In the future, additional pieces of the "Captive Flow, An Endless Journey of Water" exhibition will be installed. Please contact the WATER Center for sponsorship and donation information.

